

SANDOWN-SHANKLIN

(ISLE OF WIGHT)

URBAN DISTRICT



# Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Sanitary Inspector

1949.



# Sandown-Shanklin Urban District Council

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## HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

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### Medical Officer of Health

JOHN S. CAMERON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Resigned 15/12/49.

DONALD WARREN BROWNE, M.R.C.S.,  
L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Appointed 28/11/49.

### Sanitary Inspector

ROGER B. GIRLING, M.R.SanI., M.S.I.A.

(1, 2, 3 and 4)\*

### Housing Officer

Mr. DONALD T. MOODY.

- \* 1. Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute;  
2. Meat and Food Inspection Certificate of Royal Sanitary  
Institute;  
3. Smoke Inspectors Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute;  
4. National Certificate of the Institute of Builders.

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 1949

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To the Chairman and Councillors,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1949.

In December your Medical Officer of Health, Dr. J. S. Cameron, resigned in order to enter general practice in Scotland, and I had the honour to be appointed as your Medical Officer of Health in his place. This report, therefore, covers the period of eleven months of Dr. Cameron's office during the year, and is, therefore, virtually a proxy report on his behalf.

The year showed an increase of 165 cases of infectious disease, chiefly due to increases of whooping cough and measles by 55 and 110 respectively. These increases were not unexpected in view of the natural history of these diseases. Total tuberculosis notifications increased by 4, from 12 to 16, though the true increase as compared with the previous year was 3 if allowance is made for transfers from the mainland.

The birth rate remained virtually unchanged and the death-rate rose from 12.2 to 13.0 per 1,000 of the population. However, the stillbirth rate fell from 17.6 to 12.1 per 1,000 live and stillbirths, this is most encouraging trend.

The Register General's estimate of the population was 12,650, a decrease of 520. This decrease, however, is insufficient to relieve the very grave housing situation, and gross overcrowding continues to be a major problem of this Department. The consequences of this overcrowding are many, the most serious being the effect on the physical and mental health of the children. The problems of tuberculosis, and other respiratory diseases, juvenile delinquency, and many other urgent social questions are all related directly or indirectly, to the shortage of housing. As you have already seen, the birth-rate shows no signs of rising and I prophesy that it will continue its downward trend until adequate and reasonable living accommodation is made available for the young parents.



The full impact of this falling birth-rate will be felt in less than twenty years from now, when the age groups of the population will be grossly unbalanced. Since 1900 the expectation of life has increased by  $18\frac{1}{2}$  years for males and 20 years for females, and it is apparent that these figures will be considerably greater by 1970. In 1900, out of every 100 males born, only 33 attained the age of 65, whereas already over 60 males can now attain that age.

The consequences will be that within a generation from now the care of old people will present stupendous difficulties, not least of which will be the provision of suitable living accommodation. There are few houses being built today of such design as will be suitable for occupation by old persons. As institutional life for the old people will be not only undesirable but economically impossible for the country to support. It may be found that the only satisfactory alternative will be to attach to a large proportion of our future houses a small self contained annexe in which old persons can live as active members of the community, cared for by their younger relatives and contributing, as far as their faculties permit, to the common good.

Albeit the economic and social repercussions are already far-reaching and it is my opinion that the solution of the housing problem is also directly and indirectly the solution of our present social and health problems as they exist today.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DONALD WARREN BROWNE,

Medical Officer of Health.

## STATISTICS

### (1) General.

Area of Urban District (in acres)	...	...	...	3,509
Population	...	...	...	12,650
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1949) according to rate book	...	...	...	4,280
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£135,783
Sum represented by 1d. rate	...	...	...	£537

### (2) Vital.

#### Live Births.

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	...	12.9
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of England and Wales	...	...	...	16.7

#### Still Births.

Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	...	12.1
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#### Deaths.

	M.	F.	Total
	81	83	164
Crude death rate per 1,000			
Estimated resident population	...	...	13.0
Comparative Factor	...	...	0.71
Comparative Death Rate	...	...	9.2
Death rate England and Wales	...	...	11.7
Deaths from puerperal causes	...	...	—

#### Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...
Illegitimate	...	...	...
Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	30.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	26.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	76.9
Deaths from Measles	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer	...	...	23

**PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES**

Disease					Admitted		Total Deaths
					Total Cases Notified	to Hospital	
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	9	8	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia		...	...	...	1	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	122	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum			...	...	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis			...	...	1	1	—
Whooping Cough		...	...	...	59	1	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	2	2	—
Total					195	15	—

**AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.**

Age	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Measles	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Whooping Cough	Poliomyelitis
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	—
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	7	—
2 " " 3	1	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	12	—
3 " " 4	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	5	—
4 " " 5	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	1	6	—
5 " " 10	7	—	—	—	—	65	—	—	25	1
10 " " 15	1	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	2	—
15 " " 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
20 " " 35	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—
35 " " 45	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45 " " 65	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	9	—	1	—	1	122	—	1	59	2

**FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS — NONE NOTIFIED.**

**DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS**

Percentage of child population considered to have been immunised at 31.12.48<sup>9</sup>. —

Under 5 years of age — 56.7%.

Age 5 to 15 years — 71.6%.

# TUBERCULOSIS

## NEW CASES

## DEATHS

Age Periods			Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Total	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Total
			M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
Under 1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 15	...	...	2	2	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 20	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 — 25	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35	...	...	1	3	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
35 — 45	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 55	...	...	3	—	1	—	4	2	—	1	—	3
55 — 65	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 — 75	...	...	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	1	2
75 — & over	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total			9	5	1	1	*16	3	—	1	1	†5

\*This total includes 4 transfers from the mainland, and 2 cases in which the death return gave the first information.

†This total includes 2 cases in which the death return gave the first information and one case which died from another cause.

### Non-notifiable infectious diseases (Schools return) :—

Chicken pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Mumps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Total 163



# Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

1.

## WATER SUPPLY

The water supply of Shanklin is derived from the Chillerton wells and the catchment areas at Wroxall, Oxlease and Cowleaze. Part of the Rural District derives its supply from Shanklin sources.

Sandown draws its supply from the Yar, and from Dyer's springs at Newchurch. The water supply of the Borough of Ryde has been augmented from this source as from September 1947.

Bacteriological examination repeatedly gave satisfactory results from the point of view of quality.

## Public Swimming Bath

There is only one public swimming bath in the area at Sandown. During the year several samples were taken and submitted to the laboratory. In each instance B. Coli was absent from 1.1/100 M.L. of water which shows that a high standard of purity was maintained.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1949 for the Urban District of Sandown-Shanklin in the County of the Isle of Wight.

## PART I OF THE ACT

1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	35	69	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding out-workers premises)	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	35	69	2	—

## 2 Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	6	6	—	—	—

### 3. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

#### (a) General Sanitation

Nature of Inspection						Number of Visits	
	Water Supply	...	...	...	...	16	
	Drainage	...	...	...	...	305	
	Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	31	
	Tents, Vans, and Sheds	...	...	...	...	19	
	Factories	...	...	...	...	69	
	Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	3	
	Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	26	
	Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	4	
	Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	1	
	Schools	...	...	...	...	2	
	Shops	...	...	...	...	317	
	Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	...	181	
	Petroleum Installations	...	...	...	...	75	

#### (b) Housing

##### Under Public Health Acts

Number of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	310
Visits paid to the above houses		...	...	692

##### Under Housing Acts

Number of Houses Inspected	...	...	5
Visits paid to the above houses	...	...	4

##### Verminous Premises

Number of Houses Inspected	...	...	23
Visits paid to the above houses	...	...	11

Miscellaneous Housing Visits	...	...	84
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#### (c) Infectious Diseases

Inquiries	...	...	...	19
Disinfection	...	...	...	12
Miscellaneous I.D. visits	...	...	...	10

## 4.

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

## Visits to

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	15
Butchers	...	...	...	...	89
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	33
Grocers	...	...	...	...	87
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	2
Dairies	...	...	...	...	40
Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	...	189
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	133
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	56
					<hr/>
Total Visits and Inspections	...	...	...	...	2863
					<hr/>
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	75
Number of Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	107
Statutory Notices Served	...	...	...	...	47
Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	30
					<hr/>
				Total	259
					<hr/>

During the year the following quantities of foodstuff were found to be unsound and condemned.

Apricot paste	...	...	...	...	...	...	110 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	...	23 "
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 "
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 "
Cake	...	...	...	...	...	...	4½ "
Cereals	...	...	...	...	...	...	258 "
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	101½ "
Chitterlings	...	...	...	...	...	...	450 "
Cooking Fat	...	...	...	...	...	...	35 "
Dried eggs	...	...	...	...	...	...	56 "
Eggs	...	...	...	...	...	...	989 "
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,570 "
Mayonnaise	...	...	...	...	...	...	136 "
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,366¾ "
Tinned Goods	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,829 "
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	...	99 "
							<hr/>

Total weight of unsound food condemned 7,035¾ "

The amount of foodstuff condemned shows a considerable decrease on the previous year and there is an evident improvement in the standard of food hygiene generally.



## ICE CREAM

### Sampling.

Examination of Ice Cream samples is carried out at the laboratory of the Ryde Hospital. In the district there are 127 premises registered for the Manufacture, Storage, or Retailing of Ice Cream. Of these manufacturing is carried on at 7, 3 of which use the cold mix process. During the year 54 samples of ice cream were submitted for examination with the following results :—

Grade 1, 25; grade 2, 21; grade 3, 4; grade 4, 4; Total 54.

These gradings show that 85% of the samples were of a high standard of purity and 15% were unsatisfactory. In the case of the latter action was taken and improvements obtained in the handling and sterilization of the utensils used.

**FOOD & DRUG SAMPLES TAKEN IN 1949**  
**SANDOWN-SHANKLIN AREA**

Through the courtesy of the Inspector of Weights and Measures the following is a summary of samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, during the year.

	Taken	Not Sat.	Remarks
Milk	18	3	Two informal, one formal. Retailer prosecuted and fined £10 with 1 gn. costs.
Whisky	5	2	One informal and one formal. Firm cautioned.
Gin	1		
Rum	1		
Mayonnaise	1		
Cooking Oil	1		
Tomato Juice Cocktail	1		
Almond Flavour Cake flour	1		
Ice cream	3	1	Sold under misleading label. Vendor cautioned.
Cream Ice	1	1	Fat content 11.35% about 25% of which was butterfat. The Analyst was of the opinion that the fat in a Cream Ice should consist entirely of butterfat. Cautioned Vendor.



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